

Missions. Missionaries. Mission trips. In Western Christianity, we often see "missions" as a thing that certain, special people do, or as a special kind of trip. Have we lost the essence of what Christian mission is supposed to be about? This week, we explore the Uncomfortable Mission of the church.

Read Matthew 28:18-20

What sticks out to you about this passage?

Does this passage inspire you? Why or why not?

Sometimes, we can read a passage like this and can find that because it seems so big, and so broad, that we can't see how it specifically applies to us. But God is very intentional with His plan of redemption for this world. Let's look at some other verses that tell us some of the ways God invites us into His mission.

Read Acts 17:26-28

What do you think Paul is saying to the men of Athens here?

How does where you live fit into God's redemptive plan of salvation?

God brings us to our specific neighborhood, workplaces and schools as part of His mission. It pulls us and others closer to Him, even when we don't understand His broader redemptive purposes. But sometimes, God sends us places we would not expect.

Read Acts 9:10-19

What do you resonate most with in this story? The redemption of Saul (Paul)? The apprehension of Ananias? The miraculous nature of this conversion?

Now think about this: would Acts 17 have ever happened if Ananias decided not to go?

How was Ananias living out Matthew 28?

We all thank God that Ananias listened to God, because Paul became a force for the Gospel among Gentiles. Later on, Paul wrote to a young pastor named Timothy to remind him of what it meant for him to engage in the mission.

Read 2 Timothy 2:2-7

What advice does Paul seem to be giving to Timothy here?

How can this apply to us?

What are ways God might be calling you to be His witness and make disciples in your life?

Here is another way to ask it: if Jesus had your life, how would He be living it?

Prayer

Father, thank you for the uncomfortable mission we have all been called to. You have asked us to join in the work of Your kingdom here on earth. Show us how we each can be part of that work. Thank You for calling us into something bigger than ourselves. May we learn how to focus on our lives on mission, so that others can know You. In the name of Jesus, Amen.